

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

--10. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise using a computer system opening virtual stores on a network, said computer system comprising: a server; a memory unit storing merchandise information, selection information about user's merchandise reception, dealer information and delivery schedule information and including an order data file for storing orders from customers; and a map information display unit for displaying a map concerning dealers, said method

comprising the steps:

in said server,

accepting access to said virtual store from a user terminal connected to the server through the network;

providing merchandise information stored in said memory unit to said user terminal through the network;

accepting an order of merchandise from the user on the basis of said merchandise information and writing the accepted merchandise order in the order data file;

reading selection information concerning the way of receiving said ordered merchandise from said memory unit to provide the read selection information to said user terminal through the network;

accepting a way of receiving merchandise selected based on said read selection information from said user terminal to write the accepted receiving way in

said data file;

when the accepted receiving way indicates dealers capable dealing or mediating merchandise as a delivery destination, generating map information concerning said dealers by said map information display unit based on dealer information stored in said memory unit to provide the generated map information to said user terminal;

accepting a specific dealer selected among the dealers in said provided map information from said user terminal through the network to write the accepted specified dealer in said data file; and

providing the user terminal with confirmation information including the way of receiving merchandise to the user terminal through the network based on said order information;

when a contract of sales regarding said ordered merchandise is made, generating a delivery schedule on the basis of a condition of the contract by referring to information on past delivery schedules stored in said memory unit;

when said receiving way indicates a dealer, reading out order information written in said order data file and sending a notice of a predetermined format including a merchandise delivery schedule information to a terminal of said dealer; and

monitoring whether inspection information indicating that said ordered merchandise has arrived at said dealer is received from said dealer terminal through a communication line in a predetermined period based on said delivery schedule.--

--11. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 10, comprising when said merchandise inspection information exists, monitoring whether delivery information indicating that the merchandise has been handed over to the user at said dealer is received from said dealer in said predetermined period through the communication line.--

--12. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 10, wherein said map information is information of a map searched by said map information display unit and including said dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in the region of said map on the basis of address information input by said user.--

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--13. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 11, wherein said map information is information of a map searched by said map information display unit and including said dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in the region of said map on the basis of address information input by said user.--

--14. A system for ordering and delivering merchandise using a computer system opening virtual stores on a network, said computer system comprising: a server; a memory unit storing merchandise information, selection information about user's merchandise reception, dealer information and delivery schedule information and including an order data file for storing orders from customers; and a map

information display unit for displaying a map concerning dealers, said server comprising:

means for accepting access to said virtual store from a user terminal connected to the server through the network;

means for providing merchandise information stored in said memory unit to said user terminal through the network;

means for accepting an order of merchandise from the user on the basis of said merchandise information and writing the accepted merchandise order in the order data file;

means for reading selection information concerning an approach of receiving said ordered merchandise from said memory unit to provide the read selection information to said user terminal through the network;

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means for accepting an approach of receiving merchandise selected based on said read selection information from said user terminal to write the accepted receiving way in said data file;

means responsive to the accepted receiving approach indicating dealers capable dealing or mediating merchandise as a delivery destination, for generating map information concerning said dealers by said map information display unit based on dealer information stored in said memory unit to provide the generated map information to said user terminal;

means for accepting a specific dealer selected among the dealers in said provided map information from said user terminal through the network to write the accepted specific dealer in said data file; and

means for providing the user terminal with confirmation information including the way of receiving merchandise to the user terminal through the network based on said order information;

means responsive to establishment of a contract of sales regarding said ordered merchandise, for generating a delivery schedule on the basis of a condition of the contract by referring to information on past delivery schedules stored in said memory unit;

means responsive to the receiving approach indicating a dealer, for reading out order information written in said order data file and sending a notice of a predetermined format including a merchandise delivery schedule information to a terminal of said dealer; and

means for monitoring whether inspection information indicating that said ordered merchandise has arrived at said dealer is received from said dealer terminal through a communication line in a predetermined period based on said delivery schedule.--

--15. A system for ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 14, comprising means responsive to the presence of said merchandise inspection information, for monitoring whether delivery information indicating that the merchandise has been handed over to the user at said dealer is received from said dealer in said predetermined period through the communication line.--

--16. A system for ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 14, wherein said map information is information of a map searched by said map

information display unit and including said dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in the region of said map on the basis of address information input by said user.--

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--17. A system for ordering and delivering merchandise according to claim 15, wherein said map information is information of a map searched by said map information display unit and including said dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in the region of said map on the basis of address information input by said user.--
